

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 101500Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1913

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL REACTION TO TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER'S  
PROTEST

REF: ANKARA'S 2614

1. WRITING IN CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" MAY 10 CHIEF  
EDITOR ELIAS KYROU SCORES TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK FOR  
HIS RECENT PROTEST TO NATO OVER GREEK REARMAMENT.
2. AT A TIME WHEN EUROPE ADMITS ITS CONVENTIONAL FORCES ARE  
WEAK AND WHEN ACCUSES NATO ALLIES OF  
NOT SEEING ADEQUATELY TO THEIR OWN DEFENSE, HOW CAN TURKEY  
CONSIDER GREECE WRONG IN TRYING TO ARM HERSELF AS BEST SHE CAN,  
ASKS KYROU. "IS THE NATO GOAL TO HAVE THE ALLIANCE STRONG,  
OR WEAK AND DISARMED?" MAYBE, HE CONJECTURES, TURKISH GOAL  
IS TO "AGAIN GET FREE WEAPONS FROM AMERICANS" TO REDERESS  
GREEK-TURKISH BALANCE OF POWER.
3. WHY, CONTINUES KYROU, SHOULD TURKEY WITH 36 MILLION PEOPLE  
AND 500,000 PEACE TIME TROOPS BE AFRAID OF GREECE WITH ONLY  
NINE MILLION PEOPLE? IF BALANCE OF POWER IS ISSUE, IT  
SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT "GREAT POWER" TURKEY NOW RECEIVING

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"FREE PHANTOMS TOO". BUT GREECE, FACING ALBANIA, YUGOSLAVIA

AND BULGARIA, "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES OF COURSE, BUT NOT MEMBERS OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND AWARE OF PRESENCE OF SOVIET SHIPS NEAR CYPRUS AND CYTHERA", FEELS NEED TO STRENGTHEN ITS ARMORY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE TO "ENABLE IT TO DO TIS DUTY TOWARD WEST AND AID TURKEY HOLD THE STRAITS". KYROU CONCLUDES "IF THIS IRRITATES TURKS--THIS IS OF NO CONCERN TO GREECE".

4. COMMENT: THIS IS MILDEST EDITORIAL ON POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SUBJECT WE HAVE READ FROM FIRE-EATING KYROU IN SOME TIME. IN VIEW KYROU'S KNOWN CLOSE CONNECTION WITH SOME OF GOG MILITARY LEADERS, ARTICLE MAY REFLECT SOME SOFTENING OR COOLING IN THUS FAR INTRANSIGENT OFFICIAL STAND TOWARD TURKS. ANOTHER POSSIBLY RELEVANT INDICATOR IS FACT THAT MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, EX-GENERAL EFSTATHIOS LATSLOUDIS, VISITING NORTHER GREECE MAY 8 AND 9, PROCEEDED ONLY TO GREEK INSTALLATIONS ON OR NEAR BULGARIAN BORDER (SERRES, RUPEL AND KOULA), UNLIKE PRECEDING VISITS BY CHIEF OF ARMY, ARMED FORCES CHIEF AND PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS, WHO ALL FEATURED INSPECTIONS OF UNITS IN EVROS AREA, FACING TURKEY, AS PROMINENT ELEMENT OF THEIR TRIPS.  
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